

3-7-1851

Letter from Anne Whitney, New Orleans,
Louisiana, to Sarah Whitney, Boston,
Massachusetts, 1851 March 7

Anne Whitney

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Miss S. W. Whiting
Care of Sprague, South St.
Boston
Mass

N. H. March 7-

Dearest Sarah - I have nothing especial to say - but the
 is coming round when you will be looking for a letter - I
 have been spending the day at Mr. Cook's when Aunt
 has gone to stay awhile to get rid of case & for better air -
 She is very unwell - so much so that at night sometimes
 in her delirium she is delirious - Yet after such a night -
 she may be up & about & talking as if she had enjoyed
 perfect rest. But she is getting very pale & thin & it seems
 to me cannot live long - Her disease is a very distressing
 one I had think - it has no new features - but the old
 ones seem to be continually growing - unless she shd get
 better she will not be able to go over the lake to live
 a house as she had intended. A letter came from Eliza
 this A. M. saying that she was to take ship for home
 the 8th of March - her health not admitting of her remain-
 ing in N. Y. Poor Eliza! unless she shd. have rec^d - the letter
 containing an acct. of Mr. C's misfortune & her mother's
 ill health - & painful surprise awaits her. This has
 been a winter of misfortune for Aunt's family - Ships
 seem to have gone right wrong with them & all has been
 surrounded with such an unlovely atmosphere! - Such
 weather with latidg! such hanging cut-throat weather -
 Mr. C. continues to appearance better - but I doubt - I doubt.

Mr. Goodridge who was down last week talked
of taking Mr. C. with him on one of his excursions
over La. but the probability that camping out will
be too much for him will prevent it most likely.
I wish he might get away. there is no safety for
him at home. In my next letter I think I shall
be able to tell you my plans about going home as
I shall then have decided. Eliza wants me to wait
till she returns wh. will not be till toward the last
of March. so that I may go up to Baton Rouge &
return as far as thinks best. but we shall see. I
hope the news of the horrible steamboat disasters will
not alarm you. There is a great deal of private indig-
nation expressed about them. but the papers are very
indifferent or very sheepish. It is true the people
were awake to such diabolical carelessness & hang
the engineers & Capts. who escape blowing up, as high
as Haman - I begin to have faith in Capital punishment.
It is the general indifference to life wh. affects this
community that seems to have its consummation in the
officers of boats. Joe was saying that he was at the
shore the other day when a boat was leaving (just after
the news of the Oregon disaster) & most of the passengers

were standing directly over the boilers - The Megrolie on
Wh. Ferry Line goes up Sunday is a fine boat &
trustworthy ^{new} ~~with~~, with new boilers - The Oregon was a
splendid steamer 'tis said, but she had old boilers
taken from another boat!! (my present intention is to
go up in her ^(the Megrolie) the next trip - if Mr. & Mrs. G. shd.
be going. Mr. Harrison goes up the middle of Apr.
& wishes me to wait go up to Dadeville. thence to
Mammoth Cave - thence to Cin. where he lives - If
Mr. & Mrs. G. wd. go too I shd. like the plan &
marryingly. As Ed? has said nothing further about coming
I take it he has given up the idea - I do not wish I must
say that he shd. run the risk. it is too great. For the
pleasure of the affair it wd. be somewhat doubtful. he
wd. have to start too early to enjoy the first part of the
journey - & by the 1st of April deliver me from N. C!.
its damp - its dust - its mosquitoes & odors! - Last
Tuesday was Mardi gras. when the streets were alive
with parade - of wh. I did not see much being engaged
with a dressmaker - but in the Evng. in domino & mask
I went to a masked ball. when had I known anyone some
fun might have been extracted in the way of juggling
people - The crowd was miscellaneous - & freedom the
order of the night - I chatted with a few of the gaudier
faced & ghimmy mask & came away at 12 o'clk! - This with the

seaman's fair work. I went the other night is the
sum of my dissipation this last week. The circus
& Tom Thumb are in prospect. I write stupidly
be so complimentary as to ascribe it to the cold wh
has mystified all my faculties. I am somewhat
tired of City life - because while lying here I do not
properly do anything. Give a great deal of love
to dear mother - & write me that she is better than
usual next time. Love to all the household.

Let me hear from you as often as you can -
Give my love to Katie & all our friends -
Every body is complaining of colds. The children
with the measles are getting well - & I shall escape
~~without~~ the disease this time. I am sorry for Aunt
sorry for Helen - sorry for the world generally -
but particularly comfortable & glad on my own acct.
with no fear of anything. Measles - Cholera or what
you will - but somewhat annoyed at times I must
confess - & afflicted with a desire to ascend the river
& explore the mysteries of the cave & whatever wonders
the country above affords - so much for travelling wh
sets yr. thoughts on the go. Mr. Woodruff says I shall
see some plantations when at Bat. Rouge. I am anxious to
go - Yrs. my dear sis -
Anne

Lat. A.M. Bright & cool, Feeling somewhat better -
I have just been reading the talk in the house about Mr.
Allen's charge of venality against Webster - I pray tell me if
J. Allen was chosen rep. the last election? I thought he was
defeated. It is very probable that the charge is true. but
what dirty business! - I see that the Mayor of Salem
has won the praises of the courier - Long life to him! but
that is rather dirty work too. It is good as well as
amusing to read the recriminating suits brought by the
anti-slave catchers. It makes the Southern people mad of
course. The papers here however are not violent. They
speak as if the law were & always must be inefficient.
I pray that they may be in the right. It is curious
to see the thousand ways wh. the genius of Barnum
invents for turning a penny. General Fox Thurlow having
arrived here, B. ^{has} ~~photographed~~ ^{shipped} him for the week to come -
And he goes up the river tomorrow with J. Q. - Barnum has
also laid hands on the Baltimore children. little actors. &
engaging them at \$20,000 a year takes them to England
in the spring. This man I might style the Napoleon
of humbug - He is a representative man. He took tea
here the other Evng. is a good looking man - rather

handsome & stylish ^{in his dress & manner} ~~but~~ but with a wooden
nature out of the job. going ship again to night! & to
his full knees - Is it not too bad that I have not
seen her? Flowers begin to bloom in the garden. I have
frequent bouquets - the last one night bef. last
of white rose buds. orange blooms. ~~night~~ blooming pinks
all white & green. it was lovely. There has been no
time this winter that I cd. buy such beautiful flowers
& so cheaply as at home. now they begin to come -
Had a letter from John the same day that yrs. came -
all well, as he says nothing to the contrary -

Good bye - Do not feel trouble about my
up river voyage - depend upon it that I shall go
with good friends. & shall take every precaution. even
to the taking a life preserver.